

Several letters seeking my advice have accumulated. People are so desperate in these times that they write anyone that they can tell their troubles to. Inflation filled depression conditions turn folks into big letter writers. Ballpoint pen manufacturers are bound to be experiencing a great boom.

Enclosed are the ones that I could answer:

Dear Monte: Doctors have pronounced my husband's snoring habit as incurable. Do you know a remedy?

Signed P.

Dear P: Did the doctors say snoring was a habit.? If they did, they have pigs under their bed. Snoring is caused by the check valves in the lungs locking open from the main air bellows. Check valve locking is not habit forming. Finger nail biting, nose scratching, hair twirling, and lip puckering are among the 96 dozen recognized habits of man, but snoring is not and never has been. Keep that in mind.

What you should do is to buy about 20 feet of piano wire, fashion a loop at bedtime. Once he starts snoring, latch it on him. Dally to the bed post, but be sure and play him on a loose rope. Be in position to give him plenty of slack or he could jerk down the bed. Two or three applications will normally arrest the problem.

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Dear Monte: the drain in my kitchen sink make life-like sounds. Could an animal be living in the drain?

Signed F.

Dear F. Certainly not. You have either been reading too many stories of the sewer rats in Paris or have been watching too many soap commercials. Start reading love stories and cut the television time in half. If the noises continue, 10 days of bed rest will help.

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Dear Monte: Is the old saying correct that children should be seen and not heard?

Signed D.

Dear D: Incorrect. Originally the saying was that children should be neither heard nor seen. Somehow or the other, the meat of the matter was lost. As a father of eight children, I lean heavily toward the past.

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Dear Monte: New mail order catalogues have sewing baskets listed in the men's section. Does this mean what I think it does?

Signed G.

Dear G: To answer your question, I'd have to be able to read the catalogue editor's mind and your mind. Writers often get away with posing as mind readers and prophets. I have a hard time getting by posing as a writer.

As a guess, I'd say that the sewing basket ads are signs of the trend to bring men closer to the thimble. At least that's better than the long held theory that we were all trying to crawl back into the womb.

\* \* \*

Dear Monte: Has the new administration found the "forgotten Americans" as they promised to do in the campaign?

Signed Y.

Dear Y: Quite the contrary. Recent polls show that forgotten Americans are increasing at the rate of one percent per month among the non-farm population. No figures are available for farmers. Pollsters know that outside the boundaries of the cities, there still exists a separate culture. Other than that, no other information is available.

In August, the price freeze did change the status of the forgotten man. After that date, he is referred to as simply "the gotten American."

Don't be overly concerned over any of this. Until next election, for your purposes, all citizens fit in the forgotten American category.